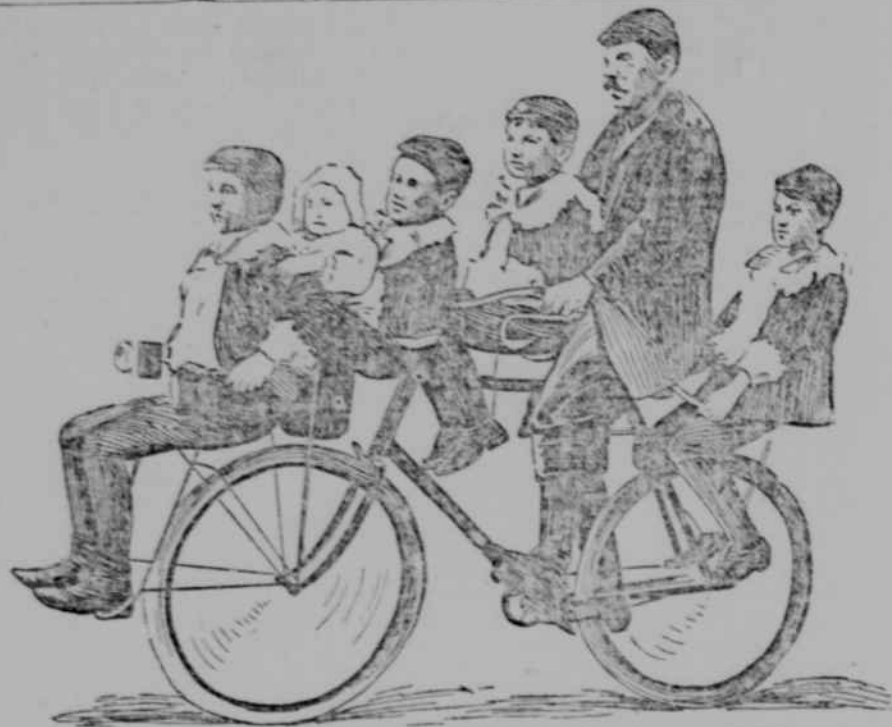


WONDERS OF THE WHEEL

FIGHTING MOCK DUELS ON BICYCLES—A NEW SPORT IN EUROPE.

It Demands Expert Riding—Combatants Must Be Absolute Masters of the Wheel to Win Battles—A Father and Five Sons Who Ride on One Wheel.

Wheelmen of England and France now fight mock duels on bicycles. It is not a mere imitation, but a genuine contest with the foils, which calls for as much skill as the combats which took place on foot. The first qualification for a duellist of this sort is to be an expert cyclist. Whoever attempts one of these combats on wheels must be able to perfectly manage his machine without the assistance of his hands. One of the first principles of exercise with the foils is to keep constant watch on one's opponent. The slightest negligence of this sort may give a fencer tremendous advantage.



MR. VOM SCHEIDT AND HIS FIVE BOYS ON A BICYCLE.

If his wheel distracts his mind from the object he is trying to attain he gives his opponent just so much advantage which he otherwise would not have. So what it really amounts to is that the man who wishes to fight his duel on a bicycle must leave the management of his wheel to his feet and knees.

The combatants in a mock duel of this nature are dressed in the ordinary outing costume of the cyclist. Their hands are clothed in gauntlets. The stockings worn are usually faced with a very fine quality of chamois skins. The shoes are of the regulation bicycle fashion, with rubber soles.

On the inner side of the trousers, just above the point where the leggings and the bottoms of the trousers meet, is a round piece of rubber about an eighth of an inch thick and seven and one-half inches in circumference. The object of this rubber is to give the rider a firm pressure upon the machine, just as the rubber soles of his shoes act as a safeguard against his feet slipping on the pedals.

Each duellist wears a mask which has over each eye a projection of wire, similar in form to a small inverted tea cup. This gives absolute freedom of vision.

A short time ago I was fortunate enough to witness a contest with foils between two of the most expert riders in the United Kingdom. Both were mounted on American wheels, twenty-

who grow more and more wary as the circle narrows.

"Look out!" calls the director. "Gentlemen, no foul, if you please." This makes the duellist more wary, for a foul by either means the loss of the honor of the conflict.

"Ware!" cries one of the combatants, and a thrust is aimed at his opponent's helmet with a force that would seem sufficient to throw him from the saddle. He sustains the shock gallantly, and the sparks fly as the foils beat upon one another. Neither cyclist has lost his equilibrium for a moment. The bicycles seem almost endowed with life. The riders evidently have forgotten that they are not on steeds of flesh and blood.

Parry and thrust, clever defence, blows that seem powerful enough to cleave the mask in twain—all these occur with lightning-like rapidity.

Then like a flash of light one cyclist whirls and circles about the other,

miles. He has even taken them on several occasions to Niagara Falls and back. It can readily be believed that, as a contemporary remarks, "This bicycle load is the centre of observation wherever it goes."

An Indian Chief Who Rides a Wheel.

This Indian chieftain is on his first visit to San Francisco, and is the guest of T. H. B. Varney. He is a graduate



CHIEF NUMA TIDLE AND HIS WHEEL.

of the Carson Indian School, being now employed by the Government as an interpreter and naval officer. He was taught to ride last year by C. C. Hopkins, and is an excellent bicyclist.

Birds as Seed Carriers.

Two centuries ago the Dutch destroyed every nutmeg tree in the Moluccas, in order to enjoy a monopoly of the business, having planted the trees in their own possessions. In spite of their most earnest efforts, however, the islands were constantly being restocked. For a long time the thing was a mystery, but at length it was solved. The doves of that quarter of the world are of large size, and readily swallow the seeds of the nutmeg. They traverse wide stretches of sea and land in a few hours, and deposit the seeds not only uninjured, but better fitted for germination by the heat and moisture of the bird's system. By a similar process thousands of acres of land have been covered with trees of different kinds, the birds acting as nature's agents in the dissemination of plants. Darwin found in six grains of earth adhering to the feet of a plover three different kinds of seeds, and in mud sticking to the feet of ducks and geese shot in England he found the seeds of plants peculiar to the Victoria Nyanza, in Central Africa, thus proving not only the extent of migration, but also the possibility of plants appearing in strange localities through the agency of these birds. In the mud sticking to the feet of a Texas steer the seeds of five different kinds of weeds and grasses common in Texas were found by a microscopist after the arrival of the animal in New York.—Colman's Rural World.

Oldest Church in New England.

The history of the first parish of Dorchester, now a part of Boston, is the history of one of the oldest churches in New England. The parish was organized June 23, 1636, and the first church was built in 1641. The second church was built in 1646, and the third in 1677. In 1743 they erected their fourth church, and on May 16, 1816, the corner-stone of the church burned a year ago was laid. Now a beautiful reproduction of the old church is ready for dedication.

He Envied the Giraffe.



"Father, if I had a neck as long as that I could reach up to the top shelf in the jam closet."

FASHIONS FOR SUMMER.

WARM WEATHER GARMENTS THAT ARE NEW AND ATTRACTIVE.

Becoming Shirt Waist of Ecrú Batiste for Misses—Comfortable and Tasteful Morning Gown of White Dimity that is a Marked Feature of the Season's Styles.

This style of shirt waist, writes May Manton, is particularly becoming to young misses. As represented ecrú batiste was the material selected, with collar, cuffs, belt, box-plait and tie or



MISSIE'S SHIRT WAIST.

striped batiste showing ecrú and red. A box-plait finishes the right-front edge through which button-holes are worked to effect the closing with studs or buttons. The back is gathered at the top and joined to a yoke lining with straight lower edge, the double-pointed yoke being placed over the gathers and stitched firmly down on lower edge thus ensuring a durable finish. A rolling collar completes the neck. Plaits or a casing and draw-strings adjust the fulness at the waist

trated in the large engraving, the material is white dimity and the band of openwork embroidery is lined with violet lawn, which adds the essential touch of color, yet launders so perfectly that it in no wise interferes with practical service. The ribbon at the waist is of the same shade as the lawn, and both neck and sleeves are finished with frills of embroidery.

The pattern shows front, back and side gores besides the fitted front for lining, and two pieces of the sleeve. The back has no forms, simplicity being the characteristic sought. The lining is cut to a trifle below the waist line, and should be fitted with care, closing at the centre. The full front is adjusted over it and laps at the left shoulder, the line being continued to the edge of the skirt, a feature which renders it peculiarly well suited to stout or short figures. The bottom of the skirt is left plain, simply faced with a fitted facing of the material. The sleeves are in two pieces, the slight puff and the close portion being cut in one.

For home wear during the summer, lawn, gingham, organdie, lappet lawn and percale all are suitable. For steamer use nothing rivals cashmere and light-weight flannel, the latter having the advantage of laundering perfectly, if average can be taken.

To make this gown for a lady in the medium size will require seven yards of the forty-four-inch material.

Felt Hats for Rural Wear.

Long-haired felt hats, round or Tyrolean in shape, are most appropriate for rural wear. When the foundation felt is brown or blue and the long hairs are black, a shot effect is produced that goes well with tweed dresses. Quills and ribbons are all one needs for the country; but one must be careful in their arrangement. A scant rosette, or a ruffled or ill-placed quill, will stamp the hat as homemade, and may cause the wearer to look like a crazed wild African, or a tame farmyard frump. See that the quills stand up saucily; and renew



LADIES' MORNING GOWN.

line, and the dress skirt is worn over the lower edge. The belt encircling the waist can be made of the material as illustrated. The waists may be worn with any one of the pretty leather or metal belts of this season's style. The sleeves are but moderately full and are gathered at their upper and lower edges, straight cuffs finishing the wrists and openings being made in back of sleeves that are finished with pointed under and over-laps. Percale, cambric, lawn, dimity, organdie, and gingham in stripes, checks, figures and plain effects are suitable fabrics for developing with machine stitching as the accepted finish.

To make this waist for a Miss of fourteen years will require three and one-fourth yards of thirty-six-inch material.

Tasteful Morning Gown.

No one feature of the season's styles is more marked, says May Manton, than the Russian or one-sided effect shown in this comfortable and tasteful gown for morning wear. As illus-

trated as soon as they appear ruffled.—Housewife.

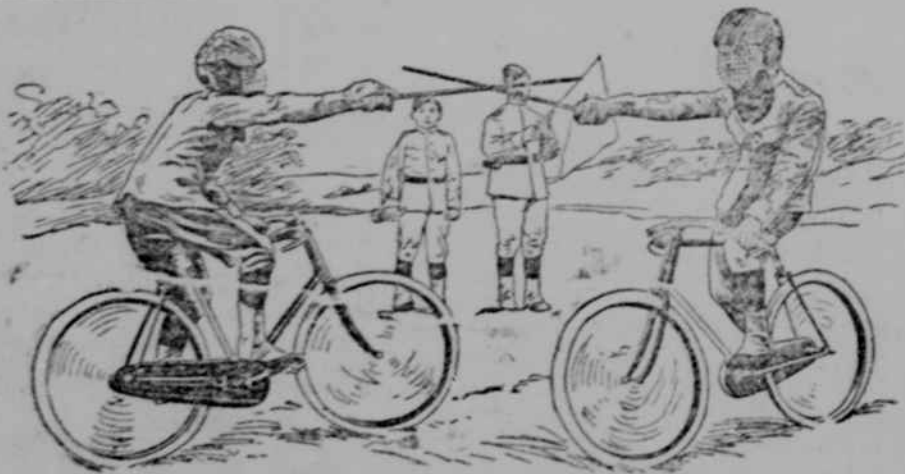
The Season's Sleeves.

They all fit tightly to the arm and are long with points, scallops or slashed tabs over the wrists, where they may widen or not. Chiffon and thin silk sleeves are shirred in the glove fashion back and front.

Full ruffles of lace, chiffon, embroidery and plaited silk are worn at the wrists. Plain dresses have what may be called an enlarged coat sleeve with the full effect very short. Caps and epaulettes are of trimmed tabs, frills, platings, etc.

Little Capes.

Little capes are so comfortable and dressy looking that every one likes to wear them. Some of the very prettiest ones are made of cream lace or chiffon. One exceedingly handsome one is made with a yoke of beaded material with a flounce of black lace, and underneath this a frill of crimped taffeta in cream color.



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eight pounds each. The wheels were of what is called the new folding pattern. That is, the frame is so constructed that it is possible to fold the wheels so that they come side by side, the centre of the frame working on a hinge. It is claimed that a wheel of this sort enables the rider to turn more quickly, and thus forms the best possible wheel for the mock duellist.

Each man took up a position about fifteen feet from his antagonist. At a given signal both mounted their steeds of steel and slowly circled about one another, just as we have seen men fighting with knives seek an opening in which to make an attack.

The left hand rests lightly on the handle bar. The right hand grasps firmly the foil, held at an angle of forty-five degrees. Slowly the two circle about, until suddenly one rider dashes forward as if from a catapult; there is a clash, clash of steel, and the first passes are over. The circling movement is continued by both men,

Buffalo Express, will, however, show that there is something in common to all, and that there is something very vital to the enjoyment of the Vom Scheidt youngsters.

The spectacle of Mr. Vom Scheidt and his family enjoying a spin upon his bicycle must be edifying indeed, especially when the family tackle a sharp hill on a warm day. At this distance from Buffalo, says the New York Herald, we can almost hear the paternal muscles groan and see great drops of perspiration rolling down the Vom Scheidt brow.

The boy in front of the family group is twelve years old, and so is the boy in the rear. No. 2 on the wheel is the latest Vom Scheidt to enter this world of sin and wheeling. He is about six months old. The boy seated just behind the baby is five years old. The next is seven.

Mr. Vom Scheidt is as muscular as he is kind hearted. He has wheeled himself and his five sons hundreds of